[English]

Training Packages

701. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL), a deemed university under the Ministry, has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with some foreign universities to provide specially designed training packages in professional English for their teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any negotiations are underway with some other countries also for similar training packages, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the financial earnings likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL) has recently entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the following universities to provide specially designed training packages in professional English for their teachers:

1. The University of Aden, Yemen Republic
2. International University of Kyrgystan
3. Chui University of the Kyrghyz Republic
4. Arabeey Kyrghyz State Pedagogical University

(c) and (d) Negotiations are underway with the Republic of Maldives and the Bishkek Humanities University, Kyrghyz Republic. The CIEFL has charged a comprehensive fee of US Dollars 8400.00 from a group of 12 students who joined the Institute in pursuance of the MOU signed with the Universities in Kyrghystan. Such programmes are on self-financing basis for participants from abroad and the Institute has considerable potential of earnings in foreign exchange. As this stage, it is not possible to project the exact financial earnings.

[Translation]

Loss to M.P.E.B.

702. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has suffered an annual loss of 400 crore and 1200 crore of rupees respectively due to subsidised power supply to domestic consumers and agriculture sector;

(b) if so, whether Union Government are contemplating any action plan to cope up with the situation; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposed action plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) As per the unaudited accounts of the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board for the year 1996-97, the loss due to subsidised supply of power to the domestic sector and the agricultural sector was Rs. 464.22 crores and Rs. 1451.17 crores respectively, due to lack of cash subvention by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The President of India has promulgated an Ordinance on 25th April, 1998, to set up a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. The establishment of the Regulatory Commissions would help in improving the financial conditions of the SEBs by rationalising tariffs and cross-subsidising wherever necessary. This would help in the inflow of greater resources into the power sector, thereby improving the financial health of the SEBs.

[English]

Losses to SEBs

703. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether most of the State Electricity Boards are running at a loss mainly due to the subsidised supply of power to farmers;

(b) if so, the names of the States which are supplying power to farmers and domestic use at subsidised rates, and the extent of subsidy given by them during the last three years; and

(c) the extent to which this loss due to subsidy has been compensated by the Union Government/State Government?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The failure on the part of the State Governments to give cash subsidy to the SEBs for the supply of power to farmers by the State Electricity Boards is only one of the reasons for the SEBs running into loss. The other reasons are low Plant Load Factor (PLF), high T&D losses and consequently high fuel consumption in some Thermal Power Stations etc., in addition to theft of power leading to high transmission and distribution losses.

(b) The accounts of the State Electricity Boards are required to be forwarded to the Central Electricity Authority within six months of the close of the year to which the accounts relate. As such the accounts for the